

NEWARK COALITION FOR NEIGHBORHOODS

For the past year the CETA/Jobs Task Force of the Newark Coalition for Neighborhoods has been pressing city officials to develop job programs that provide meaningful training and employment for Newark people. The Coalition has taken a firm position in favor of jobs for Newark residents.

The current unemployment rate in Newark is over 15% which is more than double the national rate. Youth unemployment for age groups 16 to 24 is twice as high for non-whites as they are for whites. The Coalition for Neighborhoods has called for an effective youth employment program to cut down on the rising crime rate.

The City of Newark has made an effort to bring industrial and commercial firms into the city in order to develop jobs. The City provides loans, tax credits and tax abatements to encourage these firms to move into the city. The Newark Coalition for Neighborhoods has called upon city officials to insure that jobs created through governmental incentives be guaranteed for Newark residents. The Coalition supports meaningful job training and affirmative action programs.

Due to the high rate of unemployment and the lack of jobs for Newark residents, a third of Newark's population is receiving public assistance. A family of 4 under the program Aide to Families with Dependent Children receives a monthly check for \$386 plus \$110 in food stamps for a total of \$496. This figure is \$114 below the monthly poverty level established by the federal government (\$610). In addition, the policies and rules dealing with welfare recipients contribute to the decline and disruption of the family instead of its development and stability.

The problems of jobs and income must concern every level of government. Federal, state, county and city policies must be supportive of jobs for Newark people and of an adequate income for those unable to work. The following local and national draft resolutions will be considered at the Jobs & Income Workshop for adoption by the group.

A. Whereas: a job is a right of every able body American worker, and

Whereas: Congress reduced funds for public service jobs from 600,000 to 400,000 nationally under the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act (CETA), and

Whereas: Newark will receive a cut of \$8.86 million for public service jobs and training under CETA, therefore

The Citizens of Newark demand that the Congress of the United States adopt and implement a full and effective employment and training program for the current unemployed including entry level and managerial level positions, and that the current 18 month limitation on public service reemployment under CETA be lifted as a method to fight unemployment.

B. Whereas: the current minimum wage is 2.90 per hour or \$6,032 per year, and

Whereas: the annual poverty level established by the federal government is \$7,320 for a family of 4, and

Whereas: peoples' real wages are declining while the cost of living is increasing by 13 per year, therefore

The Citizens of Newark demand that the federal government increase the minimum wage so that a worker's income will keep pace with the rising cost of living, and that the federal government guarantee at the income of workers so that it is adequate to cover the necessities of life including housing, food, education, health care and fuel and utilities.

C. Whereas: there are over 2 million Americans living in poverty, and

Whereas: the current welfare subsidies do not allow a person to meet the rising costs of the necessities of life, and

Whereas: the current welfare system contributes to the disruption and instability of family life, therefore

The Citizens of Newark call for a revamping of the welfare system to include an increase in the annual subsidies, a change in policies and procedures that are in support of family life and do not subject the recipient to discrimination and harassment, a federal guarantee of a minimum income level, and a federalization of the welfare system.

D. Whereas: the City of Newark receives employment and training funds for youth under the CETA program, and

Whereas: the youth of Newark need full time employment and training to learn and develop job skills and talents, and

Whereas: an effective youth employment and training program will help reduce the rising crime rate, therefore

The Citizens of Newark demand that the City fully utilize and institute a meaningful employment and training program in cooperation with youth agencies and neighborhood organizations in Newark, and that the distribution of funds for youth jobs be targeted to meet the ethnic and racial makeup of the City's youth population.

E. Whereas: the City of Newark provides incentives through loans, tax credits and tax abatements to industrial and commercial firms willing to locate in the City, and

Whereas: the City of Newark uses Housing and Community Development Funds and Urban Development Action Grants to subsidize the private sector located in or coming into Newark, and

Whereas: the City of Newark provides technical assistance to private commercial and non-profit developers for residential, industrial and commercial projects, and

Whereas the City of Newark attracts construction and re-habilitation loans and grants from federal and state sources for use by private developers, therefore

The Citizens of Newark demand that the jobs created by Newark's financial incentives to the private sector be guaranteed for Newark residents, and that these jobs and/or training for these jobs include entry level and managerial level positions, and that meaningful and effective affirmative action policies and programs be developed and carried out by Newark Officials, and that minority owned businesses be used in the development and construction of these projects.